



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

For release September 14, 1994

Georgia Parham 202-208-5634

### HEARINGS SET FOR COMMENTS ON WOLF REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AND CENTRAL IDAHO

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled six public hearings for September 27 and 29, 1994, to gather comments on its proposed rules to establish experimental populations of wolves in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho.

The Service has proposed establishing "non-essential experimental" populations of wolves in the two areas, which would allow extra flexibility in managing the reintroduced animals under the Endangered Species Act. The proposals appeared in the August 16, 1994, Federal Register.

The proposed rules describe reintroduction methods and provisions for managing wolves once they are released. The rules also delineate areas where wolves would be designated non-essential, experimental. Such a designation allows landowners to kill wolves under certain circumstances if they prey on livestock.

Hearings are scheduled for the following locations:

#### Tuesday, September 27, 1994

- o Coach CD Pub Room, Best Western Hitching Post Inn, 1700 W. Lincoln Way, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- o Jordan Ballroom, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho.
- o Capitol Room, Colonial Inn, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, Montana.

#### Thursday, September 29, 1994

- o Schafer Auditorium, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington.
- o Ballroom, Doubletree Inn, 215 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- o Jefferson Auditorium, South Agriculture Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, Washington, DC.

(over)

Early registration to testify at the hearings will begin at 2:30 p.m. local time. At 3 p.m., the history of wolf recovery in the northwestern United States and the proposed experimental rules for reintroduction will be outlined in a brief slide presentation. Testimony on the proposed rules will begin at 3:30 p.m. and continue until 9 p.m. with a break from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The order of those testifying will be determined by random drawing each hour. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes and comments will be recorded by a court reporter.

Written comments are also encouraged and will be accepted until October 17, 1994. They may be submitted to Gray Wolf Reintroduction, P.O. Box 8017, Helena, Montana, 59601. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration.